

Letter of Opposition to SB94

February 24, 2019

Attention: Public Health Committee

My name is Mandy Russ, and I am a small business owner in Southbury, the president of a non-profit support group for mothers, and a mother of two incredible and healthy children, ages four and five.

I oppose SB94 for several reasons. The first being that Pharmacists are not trained to properly administer injections, or how to recognize or deal with any adverse reactions.

Secondly, vaccines are pharmaceutical products. Doctors write prescriptions for pharmaceuticals after a medical exam during a visit to their office. Pharmacists do not do medical exams, and they do not write prescriptions. They are trained to fill the prescriptions ordered by the doctors, and to print out and include the generic information on properly taking the medications, potential adverse reactions, contraindications and more for the customer to be aware of. That is all.

Thirdly, this bill aims to push the flu vaccine, which historically has a low efficacy rate, and a very high payout rate by the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.

Fourthly, this bill will allow pharmacists to administer the flu vaccine to minor children with no knowledge of medical history. This is dangerous.

Finally, I am afraid. I am afraid that the intentions of SB94 are to further remove my constitutional right to make medical decisions for my children, and to further erode my religious freedoms.

My family is healthy. I prepare quality organic food for my family to eat, take high quality vitamins and supplements, stay active, and try to spend plenty of time in the sunshine. In my eyes, and my highly educated mind, this is the way to keep our immune systems strong and avoid illness such as the flu. I am thirty-four years old and have not had the flu. I do not believe in the flu shot. I do not believe in the quality of science behind it, and the efficacy rates and injury rates do not back up the need to make it even more available to people by people un-trained to administer it.

SB94 is nothing but a means to potentially harm my children and the children throughout Connecticut, and lining the pockets of Big Pharma and their allies. Please, do not be their ally. The pharmaceutical companies do not have our best interests in mind. Americans have never been sicker. Please, look at the rates of childhood cancers, diabetes, food allergies, fertility issues and more.

I beg of each of you to be mindful of just how dangerous this bill is for the health of our children, and the constitutional rights of the Connecticut residents you are charged with protecting.

Thank you.

With respect,

Mandy Russ
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